

## Claims

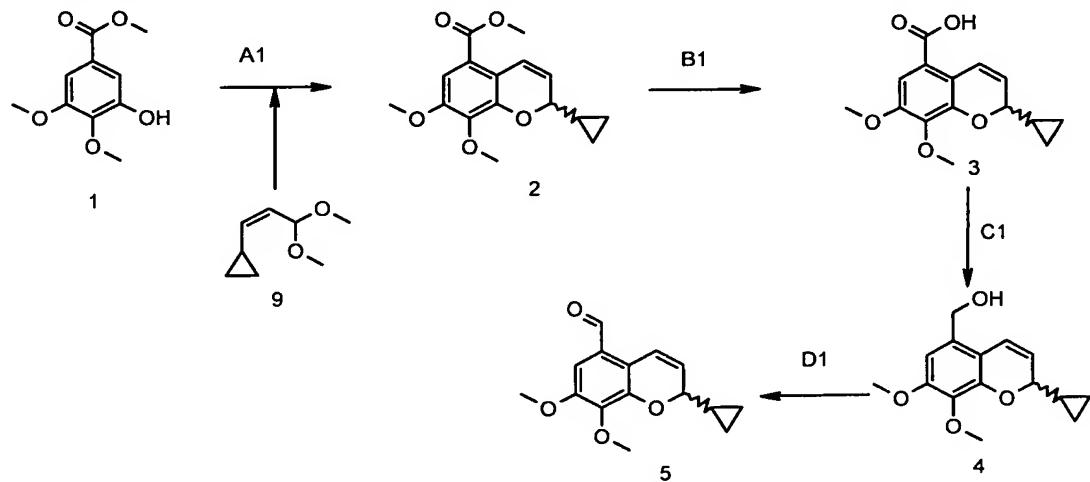
1. A process for preparing the compound of the formula I



comprising:

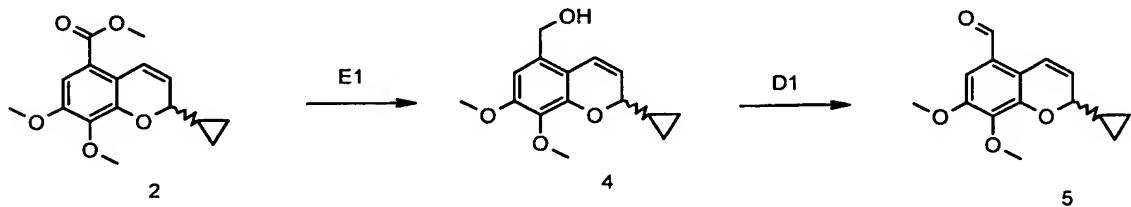
a) reacting either a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which in turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or

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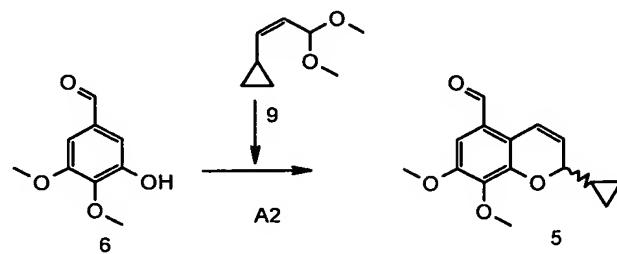


b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or

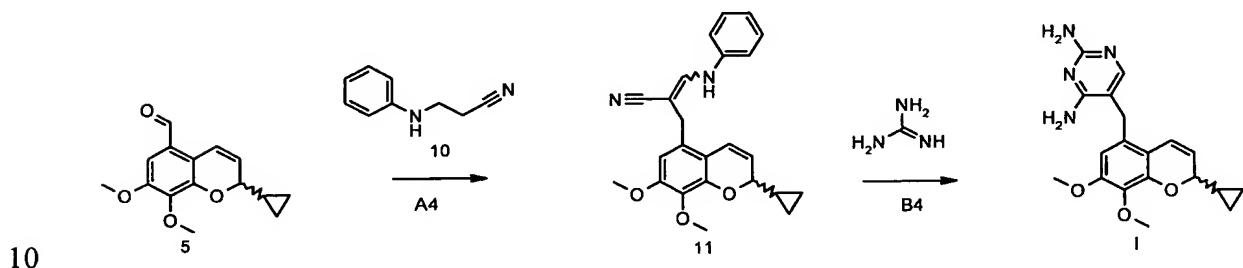
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c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5; and

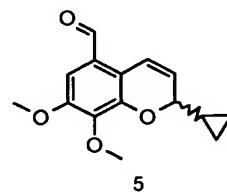


5 d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula 1 by reacting the compound of formula 5 with the propionitrile of formula 10 to obtain the compound of formula 11, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula 1, and, if desired, forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a manner known per se.



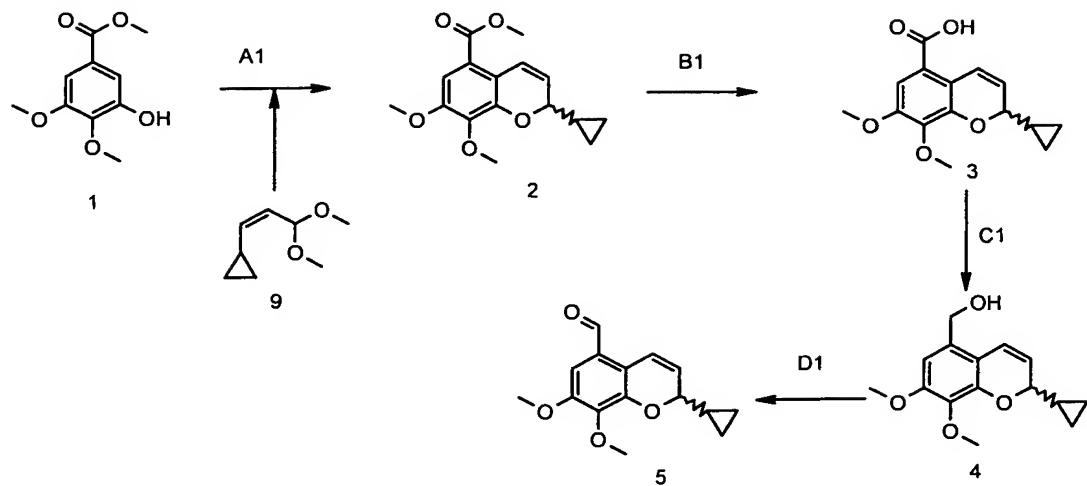
10 2. The process of Claim 1, wherein the compounds of formulae 2, 5 and 11 are used in the subsequent steps without isolation.

15 3. A process for preparing the compound of formula 5

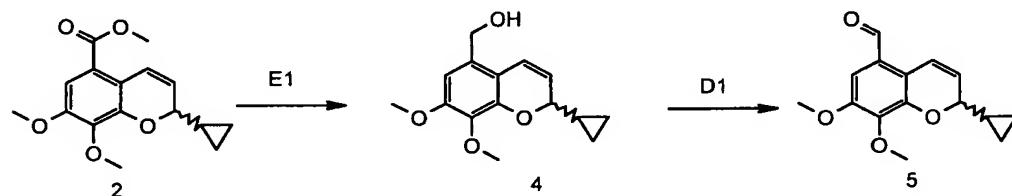


comprising

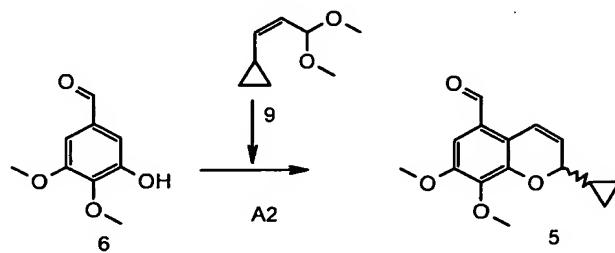
20 a) reacting a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which in turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or



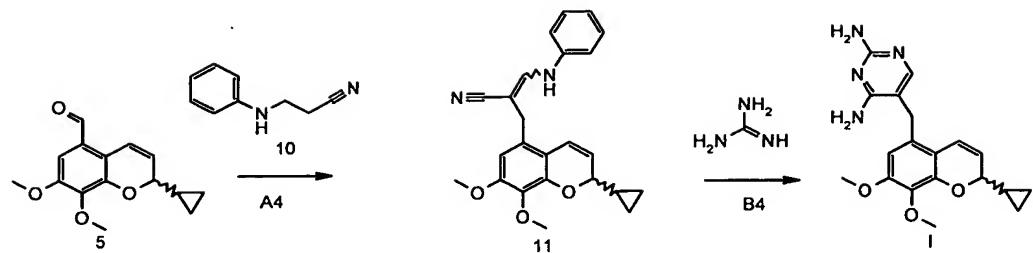
5 b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or



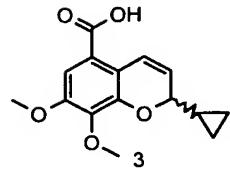
c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5; and, if desired,



10 d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula 1 by reacting the compound of formula 5 with the propionitrile of formula 10 or an analogous derivative thereof to obtain the compound of formula 11 in a manner known per se, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula 1.



4. The compound of formula 3



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5. The compound of formula 4

